

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A method executed in a visualization platform that includes a physical display coupled to the visualization platform, a data collector element for collecting real-time data from a network, a visualization interface element, and an aggregation element interposed between the data collector element and the visualization interface element, characterized by:

said data collection element includes a schema file that includes an entry for each of a plurality of data record types, each entry specifying a data record format of an ordered set of fixed-length fields, and the collection module is constructed to:

- receive data records of said types,
- if a received data record is of variety A, store the received data record in a storage medium with an association to said corresponding entry of said schema file, where a variety A data record is a record with an ordered fixed-length fields format that correspond to an entry of said scheme file;
- if a received data record is of variety B, convert the received data record to an ordered fixed-length fields format that correspond to an entry of said scheme file and store in said storage medium the converted data record with an association to said corresponding entry of said schema file, where a variety B data record is a record that does not have an ordered fixed-length fields format that correspond to an entry of said scheme file; and

said aggregation element includes processing modules that process said records (hereinafter, DDS tools), and processing modules that process aggregates of said records (hereinafter, AGGR tools), and said aggregation element processes streams that contains pluralities of said records in a pipeline manner, and

said visualization interface element is constructed to display, on said display, information generated by one or more of said AGGR tools.

19. (New) The method of claim **18** where the collection element is constructed to receive either said real-time data records from said network, or data records from a disk storage medium, as specified by a user.

20. (New) The method of claim **19** where said collection element is constructed to receive data records from said disk arrangement using a Direct-IO port of said disk storage medium.

21. (New) The method of claim **18** where each of said DDS and AGGR tools has a standard input and a standard output, where a standard input is an input that accepts data that is sent to the tool, and a standard output is an output that transmits out processing results created by said tool, and said pipeline processing is executed by specifying that the standard output of one of said tools is pipelined to the standard input of one or more of said tools.

22. (New) The method of claim **18** where said processing is executes a plurality of said processing modules concurrently on data that is obtained from a specified source through execution of a DDS tool, and said specified source is taken from a set that includes said disk storage medium and standard input, where standard input is input that accepts information that is sent to the DDS tool.

23. (New) The method of claim **22** where the specified source is set via a parameter that is specified to an instantiation of said DDS tool.

24. (New) The method of claim **18** where the aggregation element also includes geometry modules that map data to display objects and coloring of said display objects, where the display objects are taken from a set that comprises points, lines, polygons, and triangles, each of said geometry modules having a standard input and a standard output, where the standard input is an input that accepts data that is sent to a geometry module, and the standard output is an output that transmits out of said geometry module processing results created by said geometry module.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 where said geometry modules concurrently map a plurality of data sets, each of which results in a distinct display of the mapped data set on said physical display.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 where said visualization interface element is further constructed to allow users that have access to the display provided by said physical display to alter data that is processed and displayed.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 where said visualization interface element includes a module to focus that which is displayed on said physical display onto a chosen dataset, and a module for altering the dataset that is processed and displayed.

28. (New) A visualization platform that includes a data collector element for collecting real-time data from a network, a physical display coupled to the visualization platform, and a collection of software modules for processing said data and displaying results of said processing, **characterized by:**

- a schema file;

- one or more of said software modules that convert received data records to an ordered fixed-length fields format that correspond to an entry of said scheme file;

- one or more of said software modules map data to display objects and coloring of said display objects, where the display objects are taken from a set that comprises points, lines, polygons, and triangles, each of said geometry modules having a standard input and a standard output, where the standard input is an input that accepts data that is sent to a geometry module, and the standard output is an output that transmits out of said geometry module processing results created by said geometry module;

- a visualization interface module for displaying output of said modules that map data on said physical display, where the visualization interface module is constructed to be responsive to user-initiated commands for altering data that is processed and applied to said modules that map data.